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POL 23-9 GREECE

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED BY WJ
6 MAY 1967

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1. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IN ATHENS WE RECOMMEND THAT A STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES BE MADE AT THE NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT:

2. ON APRIL 21 THE GREEK ARMY SEIZED CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SUSPENDED ARTICLES OF THE GREEK CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CIVIL LIBERTIES. ALTHOUGH HERE CAN BE LITTLE QUESTION THAT THE LEADERS OF THE COUP WERE ACTING IN WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE GREEK NATIONAL INTEREST, USG KEENLY REGRETS THAT THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF MILITARY FORCE. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE. SINCE WORLD WAR II THEY HAVE HAD A VERY SPECIAL CHARACTER AS A RESULT OF

PAGE 2 RUQMAT 4985A C O N F I D E N T I A L
ALMOST FOUR BILLION DOLLARS OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE DESIGNED TO HELP GREECE TO RECOVER FROM THE DAMAGE WHICH GREECE SUSTAINED DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE COMMUNIST-LED GUERRILLA WAR WHICH FOLLOWED. AFTER THE GUERRILLA WAR THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED FUNDS NOT ONLY TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GREECE BUT HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT OF WHICH THE GREEK ARMED FORCES DISPOSE AS A MILITARY NATO ALLY. WE HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED ITS ATTACHMENT TOWARD NATO AND TOWARD ITS WESTERN ALLIES. WE WELCOME THE STATMENTS MADE IN ATHENS YESTERDAY WHICH, IN THE WORDS OF THE KING, EXPRESS THE "FERVENT WISH THAT THE COUNTRY SHALL REVERT TO PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". WE ARE NOW AWAITING CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVZ BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF GREEK POLITICAL LIFE.
GP-3. TALBOT
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, USIA, CIA, DOD, NSA 8:55 A.M. 4-27-67.

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